



## **Britain Zimbabwe Society Research Days 2025**

### ***History, Histories and Historians: Reflecting on Legacies and New Directions in Zimbabwe's Past and the Shaping of its Present and Potential Futures***

**Friday 20 & Saturday 21 June 2025 at St Antony's College, Oxford, and online**

**Register on Eventbrite at**

**<https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/history-histories-and-historians-bzs-rd25-4023113>**

#### **Day One – Friday 20 June - Programme – as at 6 May 2025**

**Times in BST. Please note that some details may change**

- 09.00            Check-in desk open at St Antony's College for in-person arrivals  
Margaret Ling and Pat Brickhill, BZS  
Online check-in on Eventbrite
- 09.20 – 09.30 Welcome and Introduction to the day  
Dr Knox Chitiyo, President, Britain Zimbabwe Society  
Dr William Beinart, Emeritus Professor, St Antony's College  
Professor Rebekah Lee, Director, African Studies Centre, Oxford
- 09.30 – 10.15 Agrarian and Commodity Histories  
Pius Nyambara, *Reflections on the historiographical trends on the post-colonial agrarian history of Zimbabwe*  
Bernard Kusena, *Zimbabwe's Historiography Reimagined: Exploring the Intersection of Global Food (In) Security and Local Realities*  
Sibanengi Ncube, *Commodities in history: a commodity history approach to Zimbabwean historiography*  
Chair: t.b.a.
- 10.15 – 11.00 Environmental History  
Muchaparara Musemwa, *Water Histories*  
Tinashe Takuva, *Writing and Researching Environmental Histories*  
Wesley Mwatwara, *Historiographical Perspectives on Animal History in Zimbabwe: From Colonial Constructs to Contemporary Analyses*  
Chair: Sandra Swart (t.b.c.)

11.00 – 11.30 Refreshment break

11.30 – 13.00 Keynote address: Emeritus Professor Alois Mlambo, University of Pretoria  
Presentation of Festschrift  
Discussant: Ian Phimister  
Chair: JoAnn MacGregor

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 15.00 Political Economy  
Victor M Gwande, *Issues and Perspectives in Zimbabwe's Industrialisation: A Historiographical Overview*  
Jeremy Jones and Tinashe Nyamunda, *The Moneyiness of Money in Zimbabwean Historiography*  
Joseph Mujere, *Mining from Below: Cooperative and Small-scale mining in post-colonial Zimbabwe*  
Eric Kushinga Makombe, *A Bibliometric Analysis of Zimbabwe's Crises Historiography: Trends, Debates and Narratives*  
Chair: Rebekah Lee

15.00 – 15.30 International and Transnational Histories  
Jocelyn Alexander, *Writing transnational histories and confronting transnational questions*  
Nedson Phophiwa, *The 'figure of the Zimbabwean migrant': Historiography of migration and mobility in postcolonial Zimbabwe*  
Peter Uledi, *Researching Sino-Zim relations: Tracing conversations and debates on the look-east policy in Zimbabwe* (Online)  
Chair: William Beinart

15.30 – 16.00 Refreshment break

16.00-16.30 Decolonising History  
Teresa Barnes, *Is Zimbabwean historiography decolonizing?*  
Gerald Mazarire, *The Legacy of Ngwabi M. Bhebe: Past, Present and Future*  
Chair: Ushehwedu Kufakurinani

16.30 – 17.30 Identities: Class, Gender, Ethnicity  
Mellisa Kalliofasi, *Rethinking women's possessions and inheritance* (Online)  
Sibongile Mauye, *Writing gendered histories in Zimbabwe*  
Nicola Yon, *Social Protection and Black Women in Zimbabwe's Historiography: Reflecting on Legacies and Exploring New Directions*  
Themban Dube, *Contesting hegemony: The historiography of ethnic minorities in contemporary Zimbabwe*  
Chair: Enocent Msindo

17.30 – 19.30 Dinner break

19.30 – 21.00 Round Table: *Celebrating Terence Ranger*

Chair: Diana Jeater

Panelists include:

David Maxwell

William Beinart

Knox Chitiyo

The Buttery Bar will be open until 23.00 hrs

## **Day Two – Saturday 21 June – Programme – as at 6 May 2025**

09.00 Check-in desk open at St Antony's College for in-person arrivals

09.30 – 10.15 Deep Histories

Njabulo Chipangura and Forget Z. Chaterera, *Rethinking colonial collecting practices towards democratised museum curatorship & records management in Zimbabwe: 1990 – 2024*

Joost Fontein, *Human-ness, Excessivity & Stuff: Some thoughts on subjunctive anthropology and the future of ethnographic museums* (Online)

Russel Kapuma, *Old Habits die hard: Digging through post-independence Zimbabwean Archaeology*

Admire Mseba, *Archaeology, Language and History: Knowledge production and the Histories of the Zimbabwean Plateau's Early and Later Farming Communities*

Chair: Shadreck Chirikure

10.15 – 10.45 Medical History

Asa Mudzimu, *'We have histories of disease, but not of the sick': Historical narratives of disease and medicine from the margins*

Clement Masakure, Priscillah Machinga and Kundai Manamere, *Problematizing Zimbabwe's Medical and Health History: A Historiographical Review*

Shalot Nhete, *Methodologies on research into 'illicit' commodities and activities: Insights from a study of illegal drug use in Zimbabwe*

Chair: Wesley Mwatwara

10.45 – 11.00 Presentation of Young Researcher Award

11.00 - 11.30 Refreshment break

11.30 – 12.10 Religious Histories and History in Crisis

Nyasha Bushu, *Rethinking African Custom and Quasi-Religious Aspirations for Justice in Colonial Zimbabwe's Judicial Historiography c.1890-1937*

David Maxwell, (*paper title t.b.a.*)

Sylvester Dombo, *Whither Zimbabwean History? Crisis, Challenges, and the Future of History in Zimbabwe*

12.10 – 13.00 Urban History

Kudakwashe Chitofiri, *Interpreting Urban History and Urban Resistance: Historiographical Perspectives on Urban History and urban Protest in Zimbabwe*

Terence Muzorewa, *Writing Zimbabwe's Urban history: Trajectories and Gaps*

Munyaradzi Nyakudya, *A historiographical review of the role of the security sector in Zimbabwe's democratization process, 1980 to 2025*

Timothy Scarnecchia, *Between Democracy and Political Violence:*

*Generational shifts in the historiography of Zimbabwean politics, 1980-2025*

Chair: Muchaparara Musemwa

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00-14.30 Methodologies

Loyd Maphosa, *A turning point that refused to turn? Zimbabweanists and Quantitative Histories* (Online)

Ivan Marowa, *Writing Memory-based Histories in Zimbabwe, 2000-2024: A Historiographical Review*

Tsitsi Tsopotsa, *(paper title t.b.a.)*

Munyaradzi Munochivei, *Anatomy of a Massacre at Chimoio, Mozambique: Rhodesian Narratives, Orality, and the Perpetual Solitudes in Historical Methods*

Chair: Admire Mseba

15.00 – 15.30 Round Table: *"Chara chimwe ..." : Creating a Community of Zimbabwean(ist) Scholarship: Zimbabwe Historical Association (ZHA) Prospects and challenges*

Chair: Tinashe Nyamunda, former ZHA executive member

Panelists:

Kundai Manamere, President, ZHA

Godfrey Hove, former ZHA President and current Vice-President Southern African Historical Society (SAHS), Chairperson, History Department National University of Lesotho

Benard Kusena, President, SAHS and former Chairperson, History, Heritage and Knowledge Systems

15.30 – 16.00 Refreshment break

16.00 – 17.15 Round Table: *Producing Zimbabwean Historians and Histories: Centres, Contours and Trajectories*

Chair: Munyaradzi Nyakudya

Panelists:

Ian Phimister

Sandra Swart

Pius Nyambara  
Jocelyn Alexander  
Tim Scarnecchia

17.15 – 17.30 Closing summary and thanks: Diana Jeater

Evening Creative Writing, Publishing, Poetry  
Samantha Vazhure, Carnelian Heart Publishing

The Buttery Bar will be open until 23.00 hrs



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